

REMARKS

The Examiner has rejected the Claims 1-7 under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being obvious over Kajiwaru et al. in view of Hatfield et al. or Kamiyama et al. alone or in further in view of Lee, stating that the former (Kajiwaru et al.) in Figures 5 and 8 evidences that both binarization and inversion are advantageous in the imaging of flow imaging in relation to the vessel or chamber surroundment; the latter (Hatfield et al. or Kamiyama et al.) evidence that reverse or inverted imaging is useful where less echogenic material such as vessel interiors is to be displayed in three-dimensions; Lee additionally identifies with respect to inter alia ultrasound imaging that thresholding may be used to define segmented image regions and signal inversion may concurrently practice as a hole filling technique to complete chamber analysis such as in relation to the heart; and it would have been obvious to recreate Applicant's invention from the teachings of each of these relied upon arts.

In reply thereto, Applicant has carefully reviewed Kajiwaru et al., and respectfully submits that Kajiwaru et al. is directed to an ultrasonic diagnostic apparatus for displaying a superimposed picture of both the B-mode and the color flow mode images based upon a signal fed from a translucent display processing means. Applicant respectfully submits that such a device is patentably distinct from Applicant's invention since it is a two-dimensional display device and is not for providing a three-dimensional image of an organ based on the received ultrasonic wave.

Applicant has further carefully reviewed Hatfield et al., and respectfully submits that Hatfield et al. again only discusses a two-dimensional image and the only processing is as to intensity, velocity, and power, but not inversion.

In addition, Applicant has carefully reviewed Kamiyama et al., and respectfully submits that Kamiyama et al. merely teaches that one would turn down the intensity to utilize a minimum intensity projection. Still further, Applicant respectfully submits that while Kamiyama et al. may teach other intensity projection methods, these are not binary methods. Still further, Applicant respectfully submits that Kamiyama et al. does not disclose or relate to a three-dimensional display utilizing binarization.

Also, Applicant has carefully reviewed Lee, and respectfully submits that Lee in Figure 1 only uses the threshold to identify a digital image from a camera and has nothing to do with ultrasonic imaging devices, and therefore, should not be probably combinable with the other art.

Still further, and as to Kajiwara, et al., Applicant respectfully submits that Kajiwara et al. at Figure 8, while appearing to disclose the use of an inverter, in fact merely teaches the utilization of a reversing circuit which changes the black portions to white portions and the white portions to black portions so that it becomes easier to recognize the overlap portion (see column 11, lines 19-28).


In view of the above, therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that the combination suggested by the Examiner is not Applicant's invention and would not be suggested to one of ordinary skill in the art. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that the Claims 1-7 are not obvious over Kajiwara et al. in view of Hatfield et al. or Kamiyama et al. and further in view of Lee.

In view of the above, therefore, it is respectfully requested that this Request for Reconsideration be carefully considered and Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the finality of this rejection.

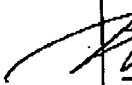
Please charge any additional costs incurred by or in order to implement this request for reconsideration or required by any further requests for extensions of time to KODA & ANDROLIA DEPOSIT ACCOUNT NO. 11-1445.

Respectfully submitted,

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